

Minutes PCAP 20th July 2023

Upavon Village Hall 7pm

Present:

Dawn Wilson (Chair, PCAP Health and Youth, Wilcot, Huish & Oare PC)
Tony Gallagher (Upavon PC)
Andrew Flack (Upavon PC)
Charles Lee-Bennet (Upavon PC)
Tony Mulliken (North Newnton PC)
Hew Helps (Easton Royal Resident)
Beverley Helps (Easton Royal PC)
David McGarry (PVTP Treasurer)
Curly Haskell (PVTP Volunteer, PCAP Standards Working Group, Pewsey Resident)
Richard Rogers (CEM, Wiltshire Council)
Jeremy Wyatt (Great Green Bedwyn, PCAP Environment)
Sylvia Wyatt (Great Green Bedwyn, Bedwyn PC, PCAP Environment)
Susie Brew (PCAP Coordinator)
Caroline Dalrymple (Pewsey)

- 1) Introductions were completed.
- 2) Minutes accepted, proposed Hew Helps, seconded Curly Haskell.
- 3) Apologies: Colin Gale (Vice-Chair, PCAP Transport, Rushall PC), Peter Deck (PCAP Planning, Pewsey Resident), Cllr Paul Oatway (PCAP Crime & Community Safety, Wiltshire Council), Glenda Pearce (Burbage PC), Nick Hopkins (Buttermere).
- 4) No Declarations of Interest.
- 5) The Chair, Vice-Chair and Treasurer stood down for re-election. Dawn Wilson was re-elected as Chair – Proposed Charles Lee-Bennet, seconded Curly Haskell. Colin Gale was re-elected as Vice-Chair – Proposed Curly Haskell, seconded Dawn Wilson. Dawn Wilson was re-elected as Treasurer – Proposed Hew Helps, seconded Tony Mulliken. Although having the same person for Chair and Treasurer is not ideal, the banking system ensures that all payments have to have two signatories so this ensures a safe procedure. Dawn would be happy to pass the role if someone were to put themselves forward.
- 6) The constitution was last amended in 2021 and there are no changes required at this stage (v5). A copy is available on the website - <https://www.pewseycap.org.uk/pcap-constitution/> - and will be shared with the minutes.
- 7) **Great Green Bedwyn Update**
Jeremy and Sylvia Wyatt have taken on the Environment portfolio for PCAP.
They presented information on how Great Green Bedwyn was set up and offered their experience to other parishes who may be thinking of setting up an environmental group. Some key points:



Pewsey Community Area Partnership

Start with the survey to find out what people are concerned about – this provides priorities for the group.

For Bedwyn, flooding, biodiversity and warm homes were the top priorities.

Use your parish newsletter to keep people up to date on progress and to write articles on topics that are of interest to the parish.

Bedwyn has a draft plan for the next 12 months.

They have worked closely with Bedwyn Parish Council but are independent from it.

Work with local groups – for example Great Bedwyn Rail User Group, WI, Bedwyn Footpaths Group.

Plans for solar panels on school and village hall.

Lots of events have been run including a Green Fair, farm walks and a talk on regenerative farming.

The group has a heat loss camera which they use on request from residents to identify areas of the home that are losing heat so that it may be remedied (difficult sometimes in older houses).

The Great Green Bedwyn website is now available and has lots of information on it -

<https://www.greatgreenbedwyn.org.uk>

They have a mailing list and send out monthly updates.

A Green Homes open weekend is planned for 14th/15th October so people can visit homes that have implemented green initiatives.

Issues were raised about the visual impact on solar panels on old buildings, how to update rented properties and cost of running greener energy.

There are four volunteers organising the Great Green Bedwyn group and one person who is paid for half a day per week to do admin and website. A grant was obtained for this from Thames Water.

8) Community Plan

- a) **Economy** – The main issue remains that of VisitWiltshire losing public funding from Wiltshire Council which means that VW cannot become a Local Visitor Economic Partner (LVEP) with VisitEngland & VisitBritain (please see [minutes from 20th April](#) for the impact of this decision). Dawn and Susie had a call with David Andrews, Chief Executive of VW, earlier that day and there are a number of actions that will be taken. The new Local Plan from Wiltshire Council, currently under review, states (among other things) that tourism is important. According to VisitBritain, not being an LVEP will cost Wiltshire in the region of £4 million per year from overseas visitors. Cllr Clewer at Wiltshire Council is not willing to find a resolution to the problem.

b) **Transport**

Trains:

Colin attended the Devizes Gateway Presentation on 31st March in Devizes with MP Danny Kruger, Wiltshire Council and Network Rail to brief the outcome on the feasibility study and the way forward. The costs for the station were £40.7M - £51.2M which included a third to a half risk element. The study also identified the dependency on the additional platform at Westbury so consequently included a further £11.4M - £14.5M on top of the station costs. These overall costing made the project not viable in the near term. The case for Devizes is now part of a bigger rail improvement study for Wiltshire with a target implementation date of 2029. Possible solutions being to extend the Bedwyn service through Devizes to Westbury, an hourly Paddington/Westbury service calling at Devizes, Pewsey, Bedwyn etc. Overall this stopping service would be a slower service for Pewsey which was not made clear at the outset.

The Wiltshire Rail Improvement Study will include both Pewsey and Bedwyn and will require a consultation. Colin advised the briefing that Pewsey would not support a replacement service that downgraded Pewsey's current fast into London service. Subsequent to the briefing, Andrew Robinson (Network Rail) sent the strategic rail document. This has highlighted concerns further that Pewsey would lose fast services.

PCAP/PVRUG is attending a Network Rail Working Group meeting later this month to discuss the concerns. A letter has been sent to Andrew Robinson again making clear PVRUG will not support a CRP or Devizes at the cost of current fast connections to London. This discussion apparently includes post Old Oak common timetable, and improvement in freight times to free up capacity with double headed trains. This working group includes TransWilts and Devizes Gateway group who are pushing their own agendas which do not appear to align with ours. These decisions are being driven by DfT.

Colin also attended the TransWilts Conference and AGM on 22nd May. The conference was well supported and included Network Rail, GWR and Wiltshire Council. The TransWilts current CEO, Paul Johnson, is retiring post the AGM and it is unclear who is replacing him.

Network Rail talked about the plan for the Wiltshire Rail Improvement Study with a target of completing the study by December 2023. Colin again made Pewsey's position clear that Pewsey would not support a revision that effectively downgraded its current fast service into London. Andrew Robinson suggested there might be a compromise where Pewsey retained its peak hour services.

Investigations to support Pewsey's position has identified the footfall in Pewsey 2022-23 was 318,000 and compares well with other stations in our region. Also the previous 269,000 three-year average for Pewsey is up. The 12% tickets sales at the counter nationally reported by Cllr Sharp is contested for Pewsey.

Wiltshire Council Local Plan draft is out for consultation - Cllr Caroline Thomas is Transport Cabinet member at Wiltshire Council. The Draft Local Plan for Wiltshire Council does not list Pewsey or Bedwyn stations again. Corsham, Melksham, Devizes and Royal Wootton Bassett stations are mentioned in this draft Local Plan – three of which don't actually exist!

Buses:

The Demand Responsive Transport service launch for Pewsey is 3rd August at Pewsey Leisure Centre, Stage 2 launch for the Marlborough service is on 4th September, with Stage 3 for Hungerford on 30th October. The tender for the timetabled route and DRT parts is now with one operator (Salisbury REDS), following issues with the original tender. The Wilts Connect App is available to download. Dawn Wilson and Colin Gale will share information as it is permitted. Paul Sanders is the project manager and has 20 years' experience with Lincolnshire. Announcements regarding the new bus service will be on GWR trains calling at Pewsey and will enable Bus connections. The DRT grant funding is expected to provide 2-3 years further support post the launch to help establish the service. Ticket costs will be £2 per zone so if the journey goes across all 3 zones the travel cost will be £6.

Recruiting drivers has historically been an issue, but the new buses do not require a PST licence which has made recruitment easier. The bus service will run from 6am to 8pm Monday to Friday and from 7am to 7pm on Saturdays. Leaflets for the new service were shared at the meeting and will be available to view on the PCAP website. Timetables are not on the leaflet as they will be printed and published once the service is bedded in – they will be on the app and online. Upavon Camp is included and Dawn has shared the information with the Army Welfare Service. Short, off-route diversions will be supported on the 100 and 101 services. The new service will be monitored and reported on by the project manager on a daily and weekly basis to begin with.



Wiltshire Council Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4): Colin has taken part in the Stakeholder Engagement Sessions for LTP4 which was run by Aitkins for WC. The LTP4 is at its earliest stage, i.e. stage 1 with the contractor carrying out initial reviews and background work to evaluate the DfT new requirements. Dawn was concerned that the Local Transport Plan Seminar demonstrated that the targets are aspirational and probably unachievable and that the road transport strategy was all about electric vehicles. Jeremy Wyatt said there are 44,000 charging points for electric vehicles across the UK and that it would be good to have charging points at Bedwyn and Pewsey stations.

Dawn attended the EV Charging Strategy Meeting where councils were having issues with cables across pavements, charging points installed in the wrong places. Lampposts can be used as charging stations – there are 8 in Hungerford.

Richard Rogers updated that there is an All Things Road event with presentations and discussions on 27th November (provisional date currently) – it would be good for the Pewsey Community Area to attend.

- c) **Planning** – Sylvia Wyatt reported that in Bedwyn, they append a ‘reminder’ to all planning application approvals, which asks people to use renewables, incorporate energy saving measures and to only demolish if necessary as cement has a huge carbon footprint.
Dawn highlighted that Salisbury has a requirement for cycle routes for any new developments.
- d) **Crime & Community Safety** – Caroline Dalrymple thanked the Neighbourhood Police for being present at the Coop in Pewsey last weekend with their meet and greet vehicle. It would be good to have a presence on Friday evenings at Bouverie Hall and the Coop.
Richard Rogers reminded the meeting that Catherine Roper, Chief Constable of Wiltshire, will be taking questions at the next Pewsey Area Board - 18th September at Pewsey Rugby Club on Wilcot Road.
- e) **Environment** – Jeremy Wyatt confirmed that they will update the PCAP Plan to include a 3 or 4 point action plan focusing on 5 or 6 areas that other Parish Councils may be interested in adopting. Jeremy to email the plan to Susie to incorporate into the PCAP Plan document.
- f) **Culture, Heritage & Leisure** – Crofton Beam Engines have a new project – Crofton 2030 – funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The purpose of the project is to identify how Crofton may change, what it needs to do between now and 2030 to maintain or improve its position as a leading heritage attraction. Susie had a call with Riah Prior who is one of the project officers and went through a number of ideas.
- g) **Health & Wellbeing** – Next meeting is on 27th July on Zoom. Alabare who provides mental healthcare for the Pewsey Community Area is invited (not confirmed) to take on your concerns and needs. Adult Social Care representative will be attending.
Dawn reminded the meeting that the Health & Wellbeing forum has a grant fund for health related projects.
Wiltshire Community Foundation has launched a cost of living fund.
- h) **Children & Young People** – Upavon are progressing the football coach sessions, with a presentation at the PC meeting the previous day. The PC are now discussing. They will also continue with the Blue Bus for the next 6 months. Upavon has approximately 200 young people.
A Youth Café will run in the foyer at Pewsey Campus from the end of September/beginning of October. This is for 13 to 18 year olds. It will start simply and then additional facilities will be added if it is successful.
PCAP has been working with Pewsey PC for a Family Fun Day on 9th September, the day of Carnival’s Duck Race. The event is from 1pm to 4pm in Bouverie Hall and in the car park and will include crafting, circus skills and face painting. The Duck Race is at 12.30pm.

- i) **Treasurer Report** – Dawn provided a summary of the accounts. Pewsey Surgery now has a fund to help older people who can't afford things like diabetes monitors and blood pressure monitors. Dawn thanked Parish Councils for contributions towards PCAP's running costs. Approximately £3.5k was spent from the Cost of Living fund between January and May for families in need. Uniforms and other school-related equipment can be sourced from the Ruksak charity in Trowbridge - <https://www.ruksak45218.org.uk>.

PCAP Accounts July 2023

By Project	Income	Expenses	Crd frwrd From last	In this yr Leaves		Carry Forward 2024
Health	£ 30.00	£ 1,244.38	£ 3,393.27	£ 2,178.89	Health	£ 2,178.89
Unrestricted	£ 350.00	£ 410.20	£ 2,656.05	£ 2,595.85	Unrestricted	£ 2,595.85
Shalbourne			£ 775.92	£ 775.92	Shalbourne	£ 775.92
PVTP deducted from Unrestrictec			-36		PVTP	£ -
Cost of Living Project	£ -	£ 1,300.00	£ 1,940.00	£ 640.00	Cost of Living Project	£ 640.00
	£ 380.00	£ 2,954.58	£ 8,729.24	£ 6,190.66	£ -	£ 6,190.66

- 9) **Pewsey Area Board Update**- Richard Rogers confirmed that Cllr Oatway had met with Inspector Ben Huggins and had requested that there be a higher police presence in the Pewsey Community Area. The Community Policing van was in Pewsey last weekend.
- 10) **Parish Issues Review** – No new issues or fly-tipping instances were raised by Parish Councils.
- 11) **Any Other Business** – The Pewsey Vale LHFIG meeting is next week. If you have a need for white lining to be done, then it must be reported via MyWilts.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and Upavon Parish Council for the use of the hall (and excellent refreshments) and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.